



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## France

## Dried Fruit

## Annual

## 2006

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**Report Highlights:**

France is the largest producer and exporter of prunes in Europe. As a result of reduced U.S. supply and lower exports to Europe in MY 2004/05, French exports boomed to EU markets, and also increased significantly to the United States. These abnormally high exports, combined with an average domestic production in France, resulted in a significant reduction in stocks. In MY 2005/06, French production was again average, and exports are estimated to again be favored by the relatively low U.S. supply. No significant change is expected for French production in MY 2006/07.

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Includes PSD Changes: Yes  
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes  
Annual Report  
Paris [FR1]  
[FR]

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## Executive Summary

France is the largest producer and exporter of prunes in Europe. Due to a reduced U.S. supply, U.S. exports to Europe were lower in MY 2004/05. French exports filled this void in Europe and also increased significantly to the United States. These abnormally high exports, combined with an average domestic production in France, resulted in a significant reduction in stocks. In MY 2005/06, French production was again average, and exports are projected to be high again favored by the relatively low U.S. supply. No significant change is expected for French production in MY 2006/07.

## Section I: Situation and Outlook

France is the largest producer and exporter of prunes in Europe. Average annual production in France is 45,000-50,000 MT. French and U.S. prunes traditionally compete for European markets.

### 2004/05 Marketing Year:

In 2004/05, French prune exports boomed, mainly to European Member States, as a result of lower shipments from the United States to Europe, due to the significant reduction in U.S. production. Specifically, French exports to the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Germany and Belgium were notably higher.

French exports also increased significantly to non-EU countries with strong exports to the United States, which became France's largest export market, Algeria, Russia and Tunisia. There are some indications that French shipments to the United States were actually transshipments and not targeted to the U.S. market.

These abnormally high French exports, combined with an average production, resulted in a significant reduction in stocks in MY 2004/05. While beginning stocks were abnormally high, as a result of two consecutive years of high production, the dynamic European demand for French prunes reduced French domestic stocks by almost half.

### 2005/06 Marketing Year:

In MY 2005/06, French production is estimated to be average compared with previous years, at 45,600 MT. French exports are expected to be strong again in MY 2005/06, but not as high as last year because, first, the California harvest was higher in 2005 than 2004, but remained lower than average, and second, French supply in MY 2005/06 is lower than in MY 2004/05, as a result of lower beginning stocks.

### 2006/07 Marketing Year:

An average harvest is expected in France. French growers fear that reduced U.S. production and exports in the past years will reduce total world consumption in the long term, therefore depressing demand for French products too. Consequently, they are closely monitoring estimations of the 2006 harvest in California in order to anticipate market conditions that will affect their own production.

## Section II: Statistical Tables

## PSD Table

Country	France					
Commodity	Prunes (Plums, Dried)					
	(HA)(1000 TREES)(MT)					
	2004	Revised	2005	Estimate	2006	Forecast
	USDA Official	Post	USDA Official	Post	USDA Official	Post
	[Old]	Estimate[New]	[Old]	Estimate[New]	[Old]	Estimate[New]
Market Year	09/2004		09/2005		09/2006	
Begin						
Area Planted	13400	13400	13400	13400	0	13400
Area Harvested	12300	12300	12300	12300	0	12300
Bearing Trees	2450	2450	2450	2450	0	2450
Non-Bearing Trees	120	100	100	100	0	100
Total Trees	2600	2500	2500	2500	0	2500
Beginning Stocks	45000	44000	39000	26150	42500	18000
Production	47000	44000	48000	45600	0	48000
Imports	2000	2600	2800	2600	0	3000
TOTAL SUPPLY	94000	90600	89800	74350	42500	69000
Exports	23000	33480	20000	26350	0	21000
Domestic Consumption	32000	30970	29600	30000	0	30000
Ending Stocks	39000	26150	42500	18000	0	18000
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	94000	90600	92100	74350	0	69000

Sources: French prune growers, French Customs

## Export Trade Matrix

**Country** France

**Commodity** Prunes (Plums, Dried)

Time Period  Units:

Exports for:  **2005**

U.S.  U.S.

Others Others

Algeria	3171	Algeria	3760
Russia	2084	UK	2986
Germany	1698	Italy	2796
Italy	1628	Spain	2493
Tunisia	1527	Belgium	2446
Netherlands	1430	Germany	1826
UK	1384	Russia	1755
Greece	1322	Tunisia	1542
Germany	1297	Netherlands	1080
		Israel	956

Total for Others 15541 21640

Others not Listed

Grand Total 19800 33475

Source: French Customs

## Import Trade Matrix

**Country** France

**Commodity** Prunes (Plums, Dried)

Time Period  Units:

Imports for:  **2005**

U.S.  U.S.

Others Others

Tunisia	1071	Tunisia	1169
UK	616	UK	516
Argentina	558	Netherlands	459

Total for Others 2245 2144

Others not Listed

Grand Total 2896 2597

Source: French Customs